

5/003/020



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Salt Lake Field Office
2370 South 2300 West
Salt Lake City, Utah 84119

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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U-69380
UT-023

AUG - 8 2002

Certified Mail Number 7001 2510 0007 1133 8335
Return Receipt Requested

Mr. Gary Mullard
Northern Stone Supply, Inc.
P.O. Box 249
Oakley, Idaho 83346

Dear Mr. Mullard:

On May 24, 2002 we received your abbreviated Plan Amendment (Amendment) for quarrying and stockpiling activities on your Turquoise Stone placer mining claims (PMC) and mill sites (MS), located in Section 18, T. 13 N., R. 13 W. On July 12, 2002, we asked that you provide this office with additional information to complete your Amendment.

On July 17, 2002 during a field visit to your Turquoise claim area, we discussed your existing mining and milling operation, particularly as it relates to the acreage presently disturbed and those acres proposed for surface disturbance. At that meeting, you agreed that most of the area within your Turquoise Stone Mill Site No. 2 and Mill Site No. 3 was disturbed by your crushing, screening, stockpiling and ware yard activities and that this acreage was required for future operations at the site. As a part of your Amendment, you have proposed to locate a new rock crusher and grizzly plant on your Turquoise Stone Mill Site No. 4. At the time of our field visit, you indicated that you did not need to disturb the entire area within the perimeter fence on the No. 4 mill site, but you may need about one half of that area for your proposed operations. Michael Ford of my staff suggested that the issue of acreage could be handled in one of two ways:

1. You would acknowledge the acreage within the fenced perimeter of the No. 4 mill site as the area proposed for surface disturbance. After your Amendment is approved, you would be able to lay out your equipment so that you could conduct your milling, stockpiling and loading activities in an efficient manner. Once you were satisfied with the way your equipment and stockpile areas were set up, you would reclaim excess acreage not needed for your operation. At that time, the reclamation bond for your total operation would be reduced by that amount (less the costs to assure that revegetation of the area was successful). One addition to this proposal is that the accepted operational perimeter and acreage within the No. 4 mill site be established through the use of "tee" posts to mark the final boundary; or
2. A boundary line could be established through the No. 4 mill site, running north-south at the mid-line of the mill site. This could be accomplished by simply measuring the half-way point across the width of the mill site. If you choose this option, we would also suggest marking the accepted

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operational perimeter and acreage within the No. 4 mill site using "tee" posts. If areas within your No. 2 or No. 3 mill sites were no longer needed for your operation, we would recommend that you also reclaim those excess areas to reduce your reclamation liability. By reclaiming areas not currently necessary to conduct operations within your No. 2, No. 3 and No. 4 mill sites, you could possibly reduce your reclamation liability by 5 acres or more. "Tee" posts could be placed around the work areas within these mill sites to create a semi-permanent boundary.

We need to come to agreement on the current acreage disturbed before we move forward with any additional modifications to your plan, including the authorization for your new rock crusher and grizzly location. It's important that we now establish a baseline for future actions. At the present time our estimates would indicate that your operation affects the following acreages:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Access roads	3.099
Work & Living Areas (Mill Site No. 1)	2.525
Mill Site No. 2 and No. 3	5.770
Mill Site No. 4 (fenced perimeter)	5.000
Main Quarry	1.590
Restored Stockpile Area	<u>0.330</u>
Total	18.31 Acres

We ask that you review the information provided in this letter and let us know if it is acceptable to you. We also ask that you provide a response within 30 days of receipt of this letter. We may have additional requests for information as your Amendment is developed. If you have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact Michael Ford of my staff at (801) 977-4360.

Sincerely,



Brad D. Palmer
Assistant Field Manager
Non-Renewable Resources

cc: John S. Kirkham
Stoel Rives LLP

D. Wayne Hedberg
Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining